

A HOMESTEAD.

# FAST PASSING AWAY

Only a Few of the Natives Are Left in Australia.

MANY QUEER HABITS AND CUSTOMS

Woman Does Not Rank High With These People.

THROWING THE BOOMERANG

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There are now less than 60,000 aborigines left in Australia, and of these 20,000 are in the state of Queensland, where this letter is dated. I saw no natives in Tasmania. There are only 565 in the state of Victoria, and only about 8,000 in New South Wales. South Australia has been less developed than the eastern states, and it has 23,000, while the vast desert regions of western Australia are said to have something like 6,000. These figures, of course, are not absolutely accurate. The aborigines live, in the wilds, and in the vast regions of unexplored Australia no one can tell how many there are. The only pure natives I have seen were in some of the towns along the northeast coast of Queensland, and my information comes largely from travelers, explorers and the colonial governments. Many of my photographs have been furnished by the governments of Queensland and New South Wales, from the collec-

tions taken by the official explorers.

The people here call the aborigines "blacks" and "black fellows." They sometimes use the word negro, but the few natives I have seen were chocolate brown, rather than black. Their hair was curly, but not woolly, and they had not the thick lips nor the very flat noses of the African Some of the aborigines are quite fine looking; they are straight and well formed, although generally lean and scrawny. latto than a negro. She had high check bones, a slightly receding chin and a big mouth, and her hair was glossy, smooth and fine. Still she was by no means bad looking for a "gin," and would have passed among a mixed crowd of colored people from our southern states.

# Their Simple Wardrobes

This girl had on European clothes. In the interior parts of north Australia the natives wear no clothes whatever. Both men and women go naked, or at best have only a few ornaments in their hair, noses and ears, with perhaps a string or two about the waist. In northwestern Queensland the natives use belts of human hair during certain ceremonies, and they often stripe their bodies with paint. They sometimes have grass necklaces and strings of opessum skins about their shoulders bands about their hair to keep from falling into their eyes, and for the same reasons soak it stiff with fat or clay. Hair grease is everywhere profusely used and it is not uncommon for a native to give himself a coat of fish oil whenever he can get it. This envelopes him in a rancid smell which is very offensive to Europeans. The methods of hairdressing vary. The hair is often bound up with cloths, and the knuckle bones of the kangaroo are so fastened to it that they hang down over the ears; in some parts kangaroo teeth are fastened to the forelocks, so that they hang down and rest on the forehead between the eyebrows. About Port Darwin in northwestern Australia the men and women use nose pins, some of which are ten inches lorg. The nose is pierced in the center, and, being pulled down, these pins are



thrust through so that they stand out for five inches on each side the nostrils. Some of the pins are made of turkey bones and others of kangaroo or emu bones. Some-times parrot quills are used, the bright-colered feathers extending out on each side the nostrils. Some of the natives pierce their ears, using kangaroo bones as plugs.

Among the queer forms of ornamentation re the scarring and cutting of the body. Nearly every native has more or less scars upon him, and the bigger the scars the better they like it. I refer to ornamental scars, for many of the women are scarred by the punishments inflicted upon them by their husbands. As to the ornamental scarring, this is done as a matter of beauty. The skin is voluntarily cut with fiints or shells, powdered charcoal is dusted in and unds are kept open for months. When they heal they leave ridges on the body as thick as your finger. These scars are found on the back and chest, and on the biceps muscles. They are sometimes on the thighs and stomachs. Among other tribes little pieces of skin are cut out to sears, the victims yelling with pain

during the operation. As to the scars of the women, these are often made by the men in way of punishment. They look upon the women as their slaves, and when angry club them and cut them with their tomahawks and spears.

If the woman is killed it makes little dif-

ference, for she is looked upon as the property of the man who supports her, and a

man may do what he likes with his own.

A Chance for the New Woman.

There is no place in the world where the

new woman could work to better advan-

father or brothers, and after marriage she is a drudge and slave. The husband can

some tribes she is not allowed to exchange

a word with her grown-up brothers. She is often a bride at the age of ten, and there

has the right to as many wives as he can get. He leaves all his work to his wives,

World.

Can't Complain for Want of Work.

complain that all the professions of her

tribe are not open to her. She does all the

work, from building the house to getting

the food and nursing the baby. Most of

the tribes are nomadic. They build little

shelters of bark or skins wherever they

picks fruit and climbs the trees to chop

behind she is usually sure of a whipping.

As a result of such treatment she ages rap-

thirty. Even the men seldom live to be

What the Natives Eat.

by exposure and diet. In point of intelli-

gence they are said to be as low as any

people of the world, and they live and act

more like animals than human beings. Their

food is largely vegetable, including all sorts

of roots. They thrash seeds out of differ-

ent kinds of grasses and collect weeds

wild honey, which they find in the hollow trees. They collect wild fruits and their

ground between stones into a flour. This

four is then made into dough and eaten

Among the curious vlands of which they

are fond are ants, worms and snakes. There

are ants all over Australia, and certain

varieties of them are caught by the aborig-

ines. The native stands upon an ant hill and stamps with his feet, whereupon the ants

run up his legs. After his shanks are well

oated he scrapes them off and eats them.

The larger kinds of ants are roasted or

Another delicacy is the beetle, which is

n the matured insect. The worms are

picked out of the rotten trees and cooked

in red-hot ashes. Foreigners who have eaten them say they are not at all bad, and

that they look and taste much like an ome-

Snakes of all kinds are caught and roasted,

and also lizards, especially the iguana. The iguana is an enormous lizard. It is eaten

throughout South America and has flesh much like that of a young chicken. Its

eggs are a delicacy and are greedily de-

The natives are also fond of grasshop-pers and locusts. There are sometimes

swarms of the latter, when the women gather them by the basketful and the peo-

ple have a great feast. They first throw the grasshoppers into the fire to burn off

and roast each grasshopper separately.

As Hunters and Trackers.

The Australians tell me that the natives

have more ability than is generally supposed. They show the evidence of rea-

soning powers and are such excellent

hunters and trackers that they are largely

employed as such by the whites. Here in

Queensland they take the place that blood-

nounds had in slavery days. They can trail

anything. They follow criminals on horse-

back and almost invariably catch them.

There are now 121 such men on the Queens-

land police force, each of whom receives a

As hunters they catch the largest game without firearms. They trap emus, hunt-

ing them with native dogs, driving them into nets and catching them in pitfalls. In

up a net across its path, drive it in, and when it has become entangled destroy it

with their spears, clubs or boomerangs.

voice of the emu, much as our mountain

eers do that of the turkey in wild turkey

hunting. The emu whistle is made by pounding on a piece of hollow log in such

sound. Sometimes a man will cover him-self with bushes and thus sneak upon the

Kangaroos are caught in nets, and

emu and kill him.

that it gives forth a peculiar

the wilds the hunters station themselv near the water holes and wait until the emu comes down to drink. They then rig up a net across its path, drive it in, and

salary of about 10 cents a day and his

wings and legs and then drag hem out

flesh so prepared tastes not unlike

ured by the savages.

roasted chestnuts.

insumed both in the worm or larva and

The lives of the aborigines are shortened

more than fifty.

either cooked or raw.

her hair grows gray and her face

re few native girls who are not married

for more.

ists in some parts of Australia today. Carl Lumholtz, to whom I am indebted for some of the information in this letter, has written a book, entitled "Among the Cannibals," picturing his travels through the camps of the Australian aborigines; the government records also contain instances of cannibalism. About twelve years ago a man named Edwards saw the natives roasting an infant in one of their ovens. He watched the blacks open the body and begin eating the fat, but the body and begin eating the fat, but the sight made him so faint that he was not able to continue his observations.

Lumholtz says the natives especially

about the water holes. They go into the water with bushes about their heads and

sneak upon the ducks and cranes which are swimming there. They also catch fish with nets, and sometimes polson the water with certain plants and capture the fish

as they rise to the surface. They catch catfish by tramping through the streams

and getting the fish under their feet. In such cases the native kills the fish by bitsuch cases the native kills the fish by bit-ing deeply into its fiesh just back of the head. He then throws it out upon the bank, knowing that it will not wriggle its

way back into the water, and feels about

The Question of Cannibals.

There is no doubt but that the Australian

aborigines are more or less cannibals. The

records show that they have always been

so, and that the eating of human flesh ex-

like the flesh of a black man, and that any sort of a human being is eaten as the choicest delicacy. There are parts of this state of Quensland where children who die suddenly are roasted, and there are proofs that native children have been killed for food. In western Queens-land the flesh of the pure blacks is preferred, but half-caste children are roasted and eaten. It is said, however, that the people do not care for white man's flesh, although they are by no means adverse to a rare bit of Chinaman. There is one intage than among these aborigines. I doubt stance recorded of ten Chinamen being eat-en at one dinner, and the statement is whether there are people in the wilds of Africa who treat the women so badly. The wife is the plaything and slave of her huswife is the plaything and slave of her husband. She has no rights that any man is because the white man eats animal food, while the Chinese confine themselves largely to rice and home any man will maltreat her. As a daughter she is sold or given away by her

#### Throwing the Boomerang.

I bought several boomerangs the other lend or give his wife away. He can forbid day, paying about 50 cents apiece for them, her speaking to any other man, and in They are merely little flat bows made of day, paying about 50 cents aplece for them. wood, each about two inches wide and from She twenty inches to a yard long. They have a natural twist in them, and are so shaped before they reach sixteen. There are, I that when thrown they return to the ownam told, many bachelors, but no old maids, for even an ugly girl can work, and a man has the right to as many wives as he can posed, use them to any extent as a weapon of war. For fighting and for all heavy hunting they prefer spears and lances. They have spears which weigh as much as four or five pounds, and which are eight or nine feet in length. Some spears are barbed with bone, flint or iron. The na-tives throw them with great skill, and are so treacherous in their use that the ex-plorer has to watch out that he does not receive a spear in his back. The boomerang is sometimes used for killing small birds, but it is to a large extent a play-

Ghosts and Witch Doctors.

As far as I can learn, the aborigines have no Great Father like that of our Indians, although they believe in a future state and happy hunting grounds. They have a great dread of ghosts and demons, and think that certain places, such as caves and thickets, are haunted by them. They have witch doctors who cure their diseases, which they think come from the spirits. The doctors pretend to locate the demon, and they suck pleces of wood out of the body where the pain is. They believe that most of their woes are due to sorcery, and that certain men can cause others to fall sick and die If they so wish. They believe their medi-cine men can make rain, and hold them responsible for all their sufferings. They have all sorts of charms to bring on and When a man dies.his widows go to his oldest brother, who can keep them or dis-When a man dies. his widows go to his oldest brother, who can keep them or dispose of them, as he pleases. The elder brother has the right to give away or trade off his sisters, and the same right belongs to the father who often trades the feether who can keep them or dispose to them. off his sisters, and the same right belongs to the father, who often trades the fe-males of the family for wives for his sons.

certain rites. As to the women and chil- an active and interesting university "is the dren, they are of no account, either dead or alive, and their remains are usually rolled up in rugs or between sheets of bark and thus buried. ry a dead child for a month before she camp, starting a new village at each stop-ping place. In traveling the women carry belongings of the family. They are standing the horrible odor

> or some pieces of bark are fastened about the body, and it is buried three or four feet deep in the sand, a mound covered with

logs being erected above it.
In other parts of Australia cremation is or breakfast. She often carries her child with her while at this work, laying it on practiced, while in other sections the dead the ground as she digs. She cuts the wood bodies are dried before the fire until they and carries the water, and when she falls turn into mummles. Some tribes lay the dead out upon platforms in the trees and allow the birds to clean the bones, just as the Parsees do upon their Towers of Siwrinkles, and as a rule she dies at about lence at Bombay. After this the bones are buried in the earth or dropped into a hol-low tree. FRANK G. CARPENTER.

### WHY MEN BECOME DRUNK. Philosophy of Inebriety Considered by a Learned Writer.

From the New York Evening Post.

A paper just published by Sir Lauder Brunton and Dr. Zunnicliffe upon "Certain Apparently Injurious Constituents of which they eat as we do water cress and lettuce. One of their favorite dishes is explaining the reason for the various physiological symptoms arising from overindulbread is made of grass seeds moistened and gence in alcoholic liquors, particularly of whisky. Their researches show that while intoxication is undoubtedly caused by the ethyl alcohol in the liquor, the actual way in which inebriates get drunk, or get sober after being drunk, depends on the quality of the liquor partaken of, and that this quality is positively impurity called "furfural," which the whisky contains. The source of furfural in the manufacture of whisky is a class of substance known as pentosans; these are derived from the cellulose of the grain husks, and under the influence of that, in the presence of acids,

are, in the wash-still, converted into furfural. This furfural in the body tends to pass into its corresponding acid, thus diminishing the alkalinity of the blood, which, according to most physicians, favors the oc currence of gouty deposits in the joints. The physiological action of pure furfural on animals and man was studied and led to interesting results. It gives rise, it appears, to paralysis of the voluntary muscles and to clonic and tonic convulsions.

The odd point, however, about these symptoms is their transient nature: immediately after the injection of the drug the animal would fall completely paralyzed. would then become rapidly normal. The human subjects who were brave enough to take this active poison in the same dose suffered from throbbing headaches, which lasted for a day. This result leads to the most interesting point of the research. It will probably be generally admitted that the commonest results of too free potations on the human subject is a bad, throbbing headache, and this headache appears to be directly caused by the furfural impurity of

the liquor. The reason that old whisky is less liable to cause headache than new is that ma-turation diminishes the amount of furfural which it contains. This effect of maturaalso be obtained by distilling the fresh spirit with phenyl-hydrazine-sulphon ate. By this means the authors were able to obtain the effect of it upon animals, comparing it with that of the same spirit be-fore distillation. They found that in the case of the original spirit drunkenness was entirely absent, and on becoming sober the animal appeared perfectly normal and took ups," such as citrate of caffeine, are just

"Why did she break the engagement?" "He told her that she was the only girl had ever kissed."
"What of it?"

"Why, she naturally reasoned that he was either untruthful or absurdedly foolish, and he was hardly worth having in either case."—Chicago Post. Sentimental and-ahem-thirty (?)-"Did he say he knew me when I was a girl?"
"Sweet Twenty"—"Oh, no! He said he
remembers you when he was a boy!"—

are also run down with dogs and spears. The natives trap birds of all kinds and in all sorts of ways. They catch pigeons by throwing nets over them as they sit

Athletics Discussed by a College President.

THE BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR SPORTS

General Trend Toward Manliness and Other Desirable Qualities.

GOLF AND BUSINESS MAN

Written for The Evening Star. Physical training is becoming a permanent fashion and is calling to its aid the scholarship and wisdom of Europe and America. In some form or other, we are American colleges and by more than 400 Young Men's Christian Associations. Sevour country have established hundreds of

gymnasiums, while athletic news fills more

columns in the great city journals than do

the debates in Congress. I meet men past middle age who are almost stupified by the widespread athletic interest in our country. Some of them are college men, who gained their exercise sawing wood or shoveling snow, mowing lawns or doing other "chores." Some of these very worthy men sigh for "the good old times," when foot ball and tennis, base ball and golf, bicycling and boating were never thought of as a part of college life. To me one of the saddest sights is a middle-aged or old man, who has never learned to play, who has no resources of relaxation, who cares little for any exercise in the outer world that is not directly and narrowly useful. I have known grand men who have broken down utterly and become nervous wrecks largely because the play element in human nature had never been

fostered in them. Training Carefully Directed. On thing must be said in defense of college athletics against much hasty criticism, and that is this, that physical training is under careful supervision in all our best colleges. Men who have made a thorough study of the anatomy of the human body, men and women who have given years of special investigation of the problems of health, supervise and direct the physical life of the young people committed to their charge. Before athletic contests are possible, the young people of our colleges must be thoroughly examined, and colleges must be thoroughly examined, and over all the physical training, so various and so useful, which is now provided there is wise and careful oversight.

Moral Advantages of Athletics.

I wish, first of all, to speak of the moral advantages of college athletics. A great preacher, who is also an educator, said in my hearing recently that the greatest power of morals in the modera college is the gymnasium. He said this deliberately, having had wide experience with young men and knowing the special temptations to which they are exposed. President Ellot wrote that "no American college, wherever situated, possesses any method of discipline which avails for the suppression or exclusion of vice. The vicious student can find all means of indulgence in the smallest vil-lage, and the worst vices are the stillest. It is a distinct advantage of the German university method that it does not pretend to maintain any parental or monastic dis-cipline over its students, but frankly tells them they must govern themselves. The moral purpose of a university's policy should be to train men to self-control and

appear as white men.

Queer Methods of Burial.

The future state of the aborigine depends largely on how he is buried, and the men largely on how he is buried, and the men largely on the modern college we should be to train men to seif-reliance through liberty."

There is a large measure of truth in this expression of opinion, but I fear that if the gymnasium and the athletic field were taken out of the modern college we should safest place in the world for young men the counting room, shop, factory, farm, barrack, forecastle or ranch." I believe A woman will often car- that it is the general testimony of careful observers, and especially of teachers of physical culture, that the athletic life is a moral safeguard for young men. It gives them an outlet for their energies in the bent over behind their husbands, who, perhaps, carry nothing but their boomerangs and clubs. As soon as they come to a new camp the woman cuts the bark and builds the hut. She then roes out and discontinuous terms are tied to the sides and the calves forced up to the thighs and there tied. Then a real summer to their energies in the most earnest, temptable and combative period of physical manhood; it helps to send pure blood to the brain; it keeps the mind from introspection; it controls the sensitive and sentimental, and promotes an all-round healthfulness.

The aroused interest in athletics has been a great advantage to women as well as to men, and the new American woman has a physical vigor and fortitude which give promise of a better and stronger race. Benefits of College Athletics.

# From the observations which I have made

in the last few years of the aroused and widening interest in college athletics I am persuaded that the advantages are great and permanent; that the evils are subordinate and temporary. I always think of John Milton in his

youth as a man whose moral courage was backed by physical courage. He was a fencer and one who loved the outdoor life which he has pictured in "L'Allegro" and "Il Penseroso." I always think of Washington as an outdoor man in whom there was an almost perfect balance of the physical, mental and moral qualities. Gladstone was a great walker and could wield the ax with a vigor and skill equal to trength and expertness in debate. Charles Kingsley was an outdoor man. One who walks through the quadrangle of Oxford and Cambridge and notes the English students of today must be delighted with their fresh complexions, their vigorous step, their cleanly look and well-groomed appearance. ew specimens of young manhood equal to them can be found elsewhere. The German university students appear flabby and weak in the comparison. In the German army we see officers who are more like the men of the English universities, but the beerswilling and dueling German student does not satisfy the lover of physical strength and symmetry.
One cannot reach the age of fifty and

see much of human life without the convic-tion that the physical, after all, is the basis of success in life, in business, in the professions and in everything else. How many dyspeptic, sleepless, anxious-minded professional men are early disabled and laid aside because they have not early learned to take care of the body and had no joy in any of the out-door sports, some of them very simple, by which human life and energy are prolonged.

### Golf for the Middle Aged. The widened and growing enthusiasm for

the game of golf, which is fitted to men and women of sixty and seventy, as well as to the boys and girls of sixteen, is to me one of the encouraging signs of the times. I know a banker in Chicago whose precarlous health made his family nervous, and cast him into frequent fits of depression, who has been physically regenerated on the golf links. He has something that gives him perpetual interest, which takes him out of himself and out into God's great world of air and sky and field. An earlier use of the driver, clique and putter would have saved many a minister, lawyer and business man from a nervous collapse.

Some Evils of College Athletics Some of the evils of college athletics are beginning to be alarmingly apparent. Too much time is taken in the training of contestants for intercollegiate honors. The competition has become too sharp and strong. Permissions are given by universi-

ty authorities for such long and frequent journeys that the work of the student is often seriously interfered with. Furthermore, men are allowed enrollment in sor colleges whose almost exclusive interest is in athletics. It must be confessed that in the excitement of a great victory college and university students sometimes plunge and university students sometimes plunge into serious dissipation. It is plain that these evils require the strong hand of college authority for their correction. The sportsmanlike spirit is sometimes wanting among the students themselves; they are so eager for victory that they or their friends fail sometimes in courtesy and gentlemanliness. But "quality overdriven becomes defect;" all good things have their evil sides, and in estimating the present condition of athletic life in our colleges condition of athletic life in our there is too often a tendency to magnify the evil and to minify the good. The general trend of this larger and wise

straint and that physical vigor which is a strong condition of success in life. The college and university are more and more to give tone and temper to the American people. The "rage" for athletics will issue in a preference for a large measure of outdoor living. The results are to be of inestimable advantage to the nation destined to the primacy of the globe.

If I had the ear of the leading business

men of America I would whisper in it as the wisest counsel I know to men over fifty years of age, "Golf first, and business af-terward." This means longer lived, more successful, happier and better American

# STANDARDS OF MEASUREMENT.

Variations in Different States and in Various Countries of the World. From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

"The establishment of the bureau of standards authorized by the recent session of Congress means ultimately, though not immediately, the adoption of a standard United States bushel, ton and every other weight and measure," explained a gentleman who has taken great interest in the legislation. "At present some states have what is called a 'short ton' and a 'long ton,' the former 2,000 pounds and the latter told, it is now provided in nearly 300 2,240 pounds, though nearly all the states which have legislated on the subject in recent years have adopted a ton of 2,240 eral hundred cities have made it a part of | pounds as the standard. The United States the public school system. The Germans in government has no standard ton, though in UNCLE SAM'S CASH all contracts when made there is a provision stating that the ton shall be pounds, even in states which have a standard of 2,000 pounds for a ton. The same is true in regard to the bushel. There are a lot of instances in which in the same state the various counties have a different weight stated as a bushel. It is to remedy all these conditions and seeming contradictions that a national standard is found to be necessary. Of course the federal government has no power to provide a standard of anything for a state without the consent of the state, but it is understood that, as the federal government is to provide vide a standard, there will be little or no objection to the adoption of that standard by the various states. It means a work of some years, however, for each state will have to accept the federal standard by an expressed statute. It will be a good thing for all concerned.

"When the standard weights and measures have been adopted copies of the same will have to be distributed to each of the state capitals, so that the pound, pint and yard will have to be absolutely identical in each and every state and all portions there-of. The fact that the United States have adopted a standard will have a great influence in securing the acceptance of the same in all the states, but it cannot be legalized in the states unless the states themselves legislate on the subject. themselves legislate on the subject. Strange as it may appear, the British government, though it has a standard yard, pound and gallon, has no standard acre, and an acre in many parts of the British empire means considerably different from

what it means in other parts.
"The term 'foot' has but little meaning. though as a rule there are twelve inches in every foot. The inch, however, is not always the same. The American inch, by common consent-for there is no law on the subject—is identical with the English inch.
One hundred German feet make 1036
American or English feet. The French
foot varies from ours also, though it is
the same practically. Though the gas
companies charge so much for every burcompanies charge so much for every hundred feet, and the electric light companies so much for every hundred watts used, there is no standard gas foot or electric watt in this country—that is, a legalized standard. The gas company foot is an arbitrary thing settled to suit the gas companies, the foot of hardly any two gas companies in this country being abso-lutely identical. To standardize such things is the eventual work of the bureau of standards. There is no standard what-ever in connection with electrical measurement, every electric company working out its own salvation and profit."

## HUNTING PECCARIES.

Fine Sport Among Wild Pigs in the Colorado Valley.

From the Chicago Journal.

ers are flocking toward that district. In the thick, and sometimes impenetrable, underbrush, from Yuma to the mouth of the Colorado, have gathered an immense number of the wild pigs, and only an occasional hunter and a few Indians have been killing them. Indeed, so fierce have the hogs become that Indians and white hunters alike declare that a contest with a panther or bear is no more perilous than a meeting with a wounded boar in the dense underbrush. Of late the high water in the Colorado

has driven the porkers from the lowlands, and in the open they fall an easy prey to the rifle of the hunter. The Colorado now is at the highest point known in a decade, the unusually heavy snows in the mour tains having put all the tributaries to the big stream far out of their banks

Last week a party of three from Phoenix took a small boat from Yuma, and going miles down the river disembarked, and in two days killed more than 200 pigs. They cured the meat and engaged Mexicans to pack it to Yuma, from where it

was shipped to Kansas City.

The meat of the wild hog, living on a diet of roots and wild grain, has a peculiarly fine flavor, and is in great demand by epicures. The Indians on the Mexican side of the boundary line have been killing the pigs by the thousands in the last two weeks and white traders are buying up the meat and shipping it out over Gulf of California steamer lines.

The peccaries of the Colorado valley were unknown fifteen years ago. About that time Thomas Blythe, the millionaire Californian, made an effort to establish a colony the millionaire Califoron the river near the Mexican line. Swine raising was to be one of the principal industries. Fine pigs were brought from the north to start the business. The colony was a failure and most of the hogs were turned loose. They took refuge in the river bottoms, and out of the small beginning have grown into herds of many thousands

#### Constant's Great Picture. From Pearson's Magazine.

It was in 1869 that Benjamin Constant, the great portrait painter, first exhibited in the Paris Salon. "I was scarcely four-andtwenty at the time," he says, "and, like most novices, I fancied that the more 'intentions' the artist displays the better the picture. I entitled my work 'Too Late.' On a bed in a bare room lay the dead body of an artist, pale and wan. A figure representing Death held open the door through which two female figures had just entered. One, Fortune, held a casket in her hands;

"Was the picture successful?"
"Successful! The success it had was absolutely scandalous, principally, naturally, among the younger generation of critics. Every post brought me a flood of enthusiastic encomiums in prose and verse.

the other, Glory, a wreath of laurel."

"Among the letters, one particularly impressed me. It was written clearly by the feeble, tremulous hand of age. The writer, a professor of musical composition, con-gratulated me warmly on my work, and described, in eloquent and thrilling terms, the emotion with which it had inspired him. He would have liked, he said, to come and see me, but he was worn and weary with years, and he begged me, if I could spare the time, to pay him a short visit 'I was too deeply touched by the letter to dream of refusing the request, but I had hardly set foot within the garret he lived in before I started back, appalled at the harrowing expression of surprise and dis-illusion I saw overspreading the poor, with-

ered face that had greeted me.
"'What!' he exclaimed. 'You are as young as that, while I have been representing you to myself as a man buffeted by life's storms, and, in your work, beheld the strug-gle of despair, the wild groan of one as unfortunate as I have been! What do I per-ceive instead?—youth, health, rubicund cheeks, eyes brimming over with hope! You Too Late" touched me to the core; it was the very image of my own life and destiny. Now I realize that for you it was but a means to attain success too soon. Out of my sight, you scoundrel!"

#### A Mixed Metaphor. From the London Chronicle.

Regarding mixed metaphors (writes a corespondent), I think that the following, which I heard in an Oxford lecture room, is hard to beat: "William III's Dutch followers looked upon England as a land flowing with milk and honey; they crossed the chancel solely for the purpose of filling their own pockets." athletic life is toward manliness, self-re-



WHERE UNCLE SAM'S ACCOUNTS

Twelve Bookkeepers Keep Account of Seven Hundred Millions a Year.

# BIG FIGURES IN DAILY BALANCES

The Work is Important and Likewise Arduous.

WARRANT DIVISION "BRAKE"

Written for The Evening Star. Uncle Sam will spend about \$730,000,000

between July 1 and June 30 of next year. All of that immense sum is accounted for and ultimate record made of it by one set of bookkeepers, twelve in number, in the Treasury Department at Washington, By these twelve men Uncle Sam's daily cash account is kept straight, and every morning a balance is struck, showing how much cash the government took in the day before from its various sources of revenue, and how much was spent by the several departments, and giving the total of the remaining cash in hand. Accompanying this daily balance sheet is a statement made up in another division showing the character of the money on hand, gold, silver and bank notes. It is an interesting place, this counting room of Uncle Sam, where the state of the finances is exhibited. A dozen or so big ledgers and an immense day book known in business houses as a "blotter," contain the records. Their pages exhibit every day exactly the amount of business the government is doing and whether Uncle Sam's household expenses exceed his income or not. It must be understood, of course, that these accounts are a final summary of the business transacted and that a thousand and one other books are required for the detailed record in other departments.

## No Little Business,

Big figures are dealt in here. The bookkeepers make an entry of \$250,000 as uncencernedly as a merchant would enter a ton of coal or a grocer the sale of a A large party of sportsmen left Phoenix, pound of tea to a credit customer. The Ariz., Wednesday for a week's peccary balances are jotted down in pencil and shooting on the lower Colorado river, and the bookkeeper will report that "the Navy Department has only \$60,000,000 left today" in an off-hand way, as if that were a small item. Absolute accuracy is required, of course, and if one of these employes should make an error in addition or subtraction

he would feel disgraced. Here is a sample of the daily balance sheet, which is printed every morning and laid open to public inspection. This one

was for May 2: Receipts this day. Customs \$819,222.24 Internal revenue 877,113.10 Miscellaneous ...... 105,027.5: Total receipts.....\$1,801,362.93 Expenditures. Civil and miscellaneous...... \$795,000.00 War ...... 380,000.00 100,000.00 500,000.00 Pensions .....

Total expenditures.....\$1,775,000.00

Excess of receipts...... \$26,362.00 In other columns on the same sheet are the receipts and expenditures for month and for the fiscal year up to date, as well as a comparative statement for the same period in the preceding year. On another page of the exhibit is a state-ment prepared by the treasurer's office, showing the cash in the treasury. The cash in the general fund was \$239,356,708.59. Against this were liabilities such as outstanding drafts, disbursing officers' ances, etc., amounting to \$83,326,415.01. leaving an available cash balance of \$156,-030,293.58. Prosperity Marks.

# There at a glance is a statement of

Uncle Sam's daily business and running cash account. Fortunately, it is a pretty good statement and shows a prosperous condition. Besides the valuable cash balance, what you might term the pin money of the government, the statement also shows that the treasury contains a little matter of \$150,000,000 in gold coin and bul-lion, a reserve fund, and a trifle of \$771,-592,989 in gold and silver, held for the redemption of the paper money current throughout the country, making every piece of greenback as good as gold. Your Uncle Samuel is not contemplating "going broke" just yet. This section of the Treasury Department.

known as the warrant division, is a very important branch of the government service. It is the brake on expenditures. Not a dollar of the taxpayers' money can be spent until one of these twelve bookkeepers looks into his ledger to ascertain that the account has not been overdrawn. Then, and not until then, the chief of the divi-sion certifies the existence of a balance to the credit of the particular account. When Congress makes an appropriation for the War Department, say, of \$100,000,- I terial. It

000, a ledger account is opened with the department, and the account is credited department, and the account is credited with that sum. Congress gives to each of the burea's a stipulated amount, and the are so credited in the ledger, secretary of War desires to draw accounts money to pay the officers and men he sends to the treasury a requisition for \$100 000. fer instance, on account of the a owance of the army. The bookkeeper looks at the requisition, which is in the form of a check, and turns to his leeger account to see if there is \$100,000 let. If so, he charges the sum to t, and a warrant is signed on the of the United States, who turns the money over to the Secretary of War, who thereafter makes a proper accounting to the designated efficials who admit and control the expenditures. It is therefore impossible for any department of the govto get more money out of treasury tean Congress has provided for it, as the witchful bookkeepers know to a penny how the account stands every hour. treasury

#### Careful Scrutiny Required. The work of the bookkeepers is not only

important but very arduous. The regulhe piling in sometimes at a tresitions c ate and each one has to be the ledger consulted and careful subtraction made. The hours of labor are rom 9 o'clock a.m. until 4 p.m., with half an hour for lunch. The two principal lookkeepers receive \$2,100 a year get \$2,000 a year. They are all experien served long in the department. of the division gets \$3,500 a year, and is a busy man. He has to initial disition and warrant, for the of the Treasury would not sign without the red ink initials hat the paper had passed the utiny of the veteran chief of the Secretar a warra careful

ion performs other functions becount. A the beginning of every Congress at is made showing the probable he several departments for the ar, and indicating the estimated receipts of the government. This is sent to Congress, so that the lawmakers can tell readily how much money they will probably have to appropriate, and how much is dimanded for the next fiscal year.

## HUNTING MAHOGANY.

ogany hunter is the most im-

werative Business in South It is a America. From the w York Press.

The m

embaro

A tree

portant a d best-paid laborer in the Central and outh American service, for upon his skill nd activity largely depends the Success the season. The trees do not grow in oups, but are scattered promiscuously through the forest and hidden in the dense growth of underbrush, vines and creepers, and it requires skillful and exa large en. On account of the thorn-like for two 1 ch project from the trunk at its spurs wh base, scaffolds are erected and the tree cut off above hese protuberances, which leaves com ten to fifteen feet high, thus a stump he best part of the tree. After wasting trimming the tree of its branches it is hauled l oxen as active power, to the bank of the river. made re ly for the floods. On the longest rivers th October and November. The logs others in adrift and when they reach tide are turne caught by means of booms From the boom the logs are taken to the

and from twenty to twenty-four inches in diameter after being hewn. There is a great range in the value of timber. 'the poor grade of short sed as low as 50 cents for 1,000 stock ma feet, while fancy material, used in the manufact, 2 of tops of counters, may be worth \$3 to for 1.000 feet, or even higher Previous shipped from the island to the viving within the last two years. and is used in the manufacture "San Jag ouses. The price of this variety n inch basis, ranges from \$140 to 1,000 feet. Fine hard Mexican \$165 for mahogan factory kinds for fine furniture or interior old according to the grade. It is ood, of good color, and finishes "firsts" and "seconds" in this well. class of tock are sold for about \$160 for to \$200 for 1,000 feet. from \$17 mons" s Clowest rade) at from \$60 to \$90. The

dero" and prepared for shipment, makes from two to five logs,

ten to eighteen feet in lengtl

From for expensive work, mahogany is one of the stable finishing and becoming woods of the United States. It is furniture ap wood and undoubtedly never not a c ut even houses of moderate cost ain one or more rooms finished hd as a furniture wood it has be of the l ling furniture factories of Michiuse this year mahogany for 80 gan wil per cent of its product, and other furni-ture makers throughout the country are making redium-priced goods of this mause as a veneering is extensive.

soft Mexican mahogany is not desirable,

Il grades, is worth from \$20 to

000 feet less than the hard va-

THE ADVANTAGES OF EDUCATION.

\$25 for



Small boy-"Look 'ere, Mawrd! I reckon the chaj as keeps this shop ain't bin to